(c) what facilities and funds have been provided if at all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the Eleventh plan, Scheme for promotion of good harvesting practices, value addition and setting up of medicinal plants processing zones through National Medicinal Plants Board is on the avail to provide better market linkages to farmers.

Rapes in Government hospitals

2686. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some rapes have taken place in Government hospitals in the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new born children have been kidnapped from some of the hospitals and if so, the details of such incident in different States in the last 12 months; and

(c) what action has been taken to see that such incidents do not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There have been no instances of rape and kidnapping of newborn children in any Central Government Hospital in Delhi during last one year. However, to prevent such incident, sufficient number of security guards have been deployed in all sensitive areas of hospitals.

Metal content in medicines

2687. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia and other countries have warned their citizens against using unapproved traditional medicines from India on account of its metal content;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not mandatory to test the metal content in the traditional drugs meant for human use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After publication of an article in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) some regulatory agencies in other countries like Australia, US and UK have issued health alerts regarding Ayurvedic/Unani medicines due to alleged presence of heavy metals above permissible limits.

(c) and (d) The manufacturers of the medicines against whom health alerts have been issued by regulatory agencies of other countries have been asked to get their

medicines tested for heavy metals and in case they are herbo-metallic drugs, to get their safety/toxicity tested. As per Ayurveda principles, herbo-metallic compounds following the detoxification process outlined in classical texts are safe. However, following steps have been taken:

(i) Government has introduced mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported which is effective from 01.01.2006 onwards. This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries.

(ii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161 (1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantity of each of the ingredients incorporated therein.

(iii) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 29 State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Pvt. Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely use Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.

(v) Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

Learning disorders

2688. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 20 million children in the country are found affected with learning disorders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no epidemioilogical data on the prevalence of learning disorders in the country.

(c) Remediation and Accommodation are the major management strategies in the fight against dyslexia (learning disorder). The remedial efforts for dyslexia need to focus on phonological awareness training which can improve reading decoding